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of law and permit vessels of foreign registry, and foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the Act of August eighteenth, nineteen hundred and fourteen, to engage in the coastwise trade of the United States: *Provided*, That no such vessel shall engage in the coastwise trade except upon a permit issued by the United States Shipping Board, which permit shall limit or define the scope of the trade and the time of such employment: *Provided further*, That in issuing permits the board shall give preference to vessels of foreign registry owned, leased, or chartered by citizens of the United States or corporations thereof: *And provided further*, That the provisions of this Act shall not apply to the coastwise trade with Alaska or between Alaskan ports.

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PROCLAMATION AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF AMERICAN  
PATENTS IN GERMANY

No. 1372. May 24, 1917

WHEREAS, the laws of the German Empire provide that letters patent granted or issued to citizens of other countries shall lapse unless certain taxes, annuities or fees are paid within stated periods;

And WHEREAS, the interests of the citizens of the United States in such letters patent are of great value, so that it is important that such payments should be made in order to preserve their rights;

Now, Therefore, I, WOODROW WILSON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the powers vested in me as such, hereby declare and proclaim that citizens of the United States owning letters patent granted or issued by the German Empire are hereby authorized and permitted to make payment of any tax, annuity or fee which may be required by the laws of the German Empire for the preservation of their rights in such letters patent.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the city of Washington, this 24th day of May, in  
the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventeen

[SEAL.] and of the Independence of the United States, the one  
hundred and forty-first.

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President:

ROBERT LANSING,  
*Secretary of State.*